known experts in the country, NCERT's own faculty members and practising teachers of relevant classes known for their commitment and innovative capacity. Each Textbook Development Committee is guided by a Chief Advisor. The drafts thus developed are finally approved by the National Monitoring Committee appointed by the Government.

(b) and (c) Chief Advisors, Advisors and Members of Textbook Development Committees are being given one time honorarium for their contribution only for the original versions of the textbook as per the NCERT norms at the rate of Rs. 15000/-, Rs. 12000/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively.

(d) Preparation of the textbooks by a broad-based Textbook Development Committee consisting of experts, NCERT faculty members and practicing teachers is considered preferable to getting the textbooks written entirely by NCERT staff.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Task force to improve skill base

448. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are setting up a task force on vocational education to improve the skill base of the countrymen as the country would be faced with shortage of employees with essential skills with the rapid growth in the industry, particularly in Information Technology and electronic sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are serious to introduce Career-oriented new vocational courses at Secondary and Higher Secondary levels for getting more employment opportunities to the students in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHR MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) There is no proposal with the Ministry of HRD at present to set up a task force on Vocational Education.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at Higher Secondary level. This was introduced during 1987-88

Expansion of IIM, Ahmedabad

†449. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the plan to increase number of seats and expansion of Departments in IIM, Ahmedabad has already been approved;

(b) if so, by when this expansion would be enforced;

(c) whether Government also propose similar increase in the seats in other Indian Institutes of Technology; and

(d) if so, whether these seats would be increased with effect from next session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Oversight Committee on the Implementation of the New Reservation Policy in Higher Educational Institutions has recommended that all Centrally funded institutions of higher learning should fully implement the proposed 27% reservation of seats for OBCs within a maximum period of 3 years, if not earlier, beginning from the year 2007-08 along with expansion in capacity so that the present level of seats available to general category students is maintained. According to the Detailed Project Report prepared by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, regarding their expansion plan, the IIM, Ahmedabad proposes to increase the total in-take of students in Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and Post Graduate Programme in Agri-Business Management (PGP-ABM) over the next 3 years. Other similar placed Centrally funded institutions of higher learning, including the Indian Institutes of Technology, also propose to increase their seats from the next academic session.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.